

Message Text

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61/60

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 PM-07 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 AID-20 DRC-01 /133 W

----- 068051

R 221540Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9452

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUANDA

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USEC BRUSSELS

USUN NEW YORK 463

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 00122

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR MRN 00122 VICE 09122

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: BELGIUM AND THE PORTUGUESE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE ON JAN 22, BELGIAN AMBASSADOR THIMESTER (RESIDENT DAKAR) SAID THERE HAS BEEN A RECENT REEVALUATION OF BELGIUM'S POLICY TOWARD THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN AFRICA. THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS TOLD THE PORTUGUESE THAT THEY SHOULD ADJUST TO THE CHANGING SITUATION AND RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT OF THEIR OVERSEAS TERRITORIES TO INDEPENDENCE. AS A FRIEND OF PORTUGAL AND A FORMER COLONIAL POWER, BELGIUM COULD PERHAPS PLAY A USEFUL ROLE AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME IN ASSISTING TOWARD GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE. MEANWHILE, PORTUGAL'S ADAMANT POSITION HAS PUT THE BELGIANS IN DIFFICULT SITUATION AS CERTAIN SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL AND OTHER SECTORS IN BELGIUM ARE FORCING THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE
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A MORE POSITIVE ATTITUDE IN FAVOR OF THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS.

THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD RESPOND TO THESE PRESSURES NOT WITH MILITARY OR FINANCIAL AID BUT PROBABLY BY SENDING HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN THE FIELDS OF EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH. THE PORTUGUESE WERE TOLD THAT THIS IS BEING DONE TO ALERT PORTUGAL AND TO ENCOURAGE A CHANGE IN THE PORTUGUESE POSITION. THE AMBASSADOR DID NOT SAY WHEN THIS WAS DONE BUT SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO RESPONSE FROM THE PORTUGUESE.

2. ON A STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL BASIS, THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HE HAD RECENTLY BEEN APPROACHED BY PRESIDENT SENGHOR AND ASKED THAT HE RECOMMEND TO THIS GOVERNMENT THAT BELGIUM FORM A NUCLEUS OF SMALLER COUNTRIES WITHIN THE EEC TO WORK TOWARD THE ADOPTION OF A SIMILAR POLICY BY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HE REPORTED THIS REQUEST TO HIS GOVERNMENT BUT THAT HE DID NOT KNOW THEIR REACTION.
HAVERKAMP

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Message Attributes

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